(a) whether a final decision has been taken to have a second airport for Delhi at Noida;

(b) if so, by when work on its construction is likely to begin and by when the airport would become operational; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Earlier, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted a proposal for construction of a Greenfield airport near Noida. The proposal could not be processed as the State Government had not made available the requisite clearances from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation etc.

Improvement in quality of pilots

1341. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flying institutes in our country are disappointing in keeping airline industry's demand for pilots;

(b) if so, the whether airline companies also have to compromise on quality of pilots;

(c) the number of pilots appeared for Pilot's Licences Exams in 2003; and

(d) what steps Government have taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality and quantity of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The training efforts of flying institutes in the country are constrained mainly by the non-availability of Flying Instructors due to comparatively higher renumeration available to them in the industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 14,939 candidates appeared in the year 2005.

(d) Strict quality and standards in training of pilots are maintained and monitored by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officers. However to ensure availability of adequate number of trained pilots, Government in the Annual Plan 2006-07, has made a provision of Rs. 12.79 crores for releasing as Grants-in-Aid to Aero Club of India for procurement of aircraft to be alloted to identified needy flying clubs, approved by DGCA for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence. Government have decided to upgrade and modernise the tranining infrastructure at the premier flying training institute namely Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilot cadets per annum. A world class flying training institute is planned as a Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India, at Gondia, Maharashtra.

Attending of operational phones at airports

1342. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has duty officers and operational phones at all major airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that the phones are not properly attended to;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no phone is picked up at Chennai Airport before 10 A.M. in the morning;

(d) whether there is a similar practice at Kolkata and Mumbai Airport offices of Indian Airlines;

(e) how will Government improve the functioning of Indian Airlines at various airports; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines' phones at all airports, includinng Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai, are attended to at all times. Efforts are constantly made to improve these services.